

ates announcing publicly that they would never defend their country against the Russians, that on the contrary they would welcome the arrival of Soviet invaders.

A further social consequence of Soviet policy since the war is that we live in an atmosphere in which facts are continually and systematically distorted and falsified. The leaders of the Russian State feel, for example, that they must continually tell their own people and as many of ours as they can persuade to listen, that the countries of the West are corrupt, semi-feudal societies in which social injustice and inequalities amongst the classes are prevalent. Actually, however, there could be no greater misrepresentation of the facts than this. We know that in all the democracies of the West a general levelling-up process has been going on. To a greater or lesser degree in every Western community the larger inequalities in income and privilege are being removed and systematic efforts are being made to distribute purchasing power as equally as possible in the community; at the same time retaining the economic incentive that lies at the base of our way of life. We do not pretend for a moment that we have achieved or are even trying to achieve a complete equality of economic status - but we are eliminating the extremes of wealth and poverty and we have gone a long way towards creating equality of economic opportunity. As far as we can see from information which we get concerning the U.S.S.R., exactly the opposite process is taking place there. A new class structure is emerging within the Soviet State. There is a new ruling class in Russia which enjoys privileges which you would not for a moment think of conceding to any of your Members of Parliament or Cabinet Ministers or senior civil servants. The Army is a privileged group, and we find that within the Army there is an officer class with a status which we could regard as feudal and old-fashioned. Nowhere are class distinctions so immediately apparent as in conditions of travel. There are for instance four classes on Russian river steamers, and the lowest of these classes, the hard class, has a hardness to which we would not subject even our most humble traveller.

There are signs also that other forms of discrimination have emerged in the Soviet Union. There are evidences, for example, of privilege on the basis of race. The Great Russians are taking the place of leadership in the Soviet State. It is against the law to be a Zionist in the U.S.S.R. In other fields we find the right to higher learning is becoming more and more the privilege of the governing class. It is no longer true that Soviet education is free and compulsory for all. In February, 1947, a number of amendments were made to the Soviet Constitution. Article 121 concerning education decreed that only primary education should be free and compulsory. The grades above that require tuition fees which are relatively high for the average family. Relatively, education in the United Kingdom or Canada is far more democratic today than it is in the U.S.S.R.

It is interesting also to notice the way in which differences in income have gradually appeared and increased. In addition to actual income differences, we must add the perquisites which go with better jobs - automobiles, chauffeurs, good apartments, sea vacations, and so on. The Communists claim this is just a phase of Communism, but in fact the new class is becoming self-perpetuating because it can accumulate wealth, property and privileges and pass them on to their children.

We are continually being misled also about labour in the Soviet State which is supposed to be a state organized primarily for the workers. No trade unions in Canada would for a moment accept the status which has been assigned to trade unions in the U.S.S.R. They have been transformed into an instrument for